1 It is a new day, and once again you find yourself walking alone on the savannah. Again, you hear something in the bushes. Could it be a lion? It is probably nothing, so you just keep walking congratulating yourself on your cool demeanor while a lion jumps out from behind the bushes to
5 eat you. You thought nothing was there, but there was something. That is a false negative.

The two examples show two cases of being wrong, but the point is that an interpretation that turns out to be a false positive is much better for our
10 survival than a false negative. So, since it is better to be safe than sorry, we as a people often choose to believe the worst. This keeps us safe in many cases, but it also results in us sometimes seeing lions where there are none.

interpretation fortolkning

15 **Debunking in Vain**
Another issue is that if you try to debunk various conspiracy theories, you might be part of the problem. The conspiracies that turned out to be real were defended by people deliberately trying to mislead, or naive fools who just forwarded the official story. So, the very act of trying
20 to debunk a conspiracy theory is by and of itself suspicious to some people. Confused yet?

in vain forgæves

Furthermore, it seems that some conspiracy theories are so powerful that they are almost impossible to completely debunk. An example that
25 has had a huge influence on the 20th century is the book *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion,* an anti-Semitic text published in 1903, "revealing" a Jewish plot to control the world written in the form of notes from a meeting of Jewish leaders. The book was exposed as a fraud in 1921 and yet was still used in justifying anti-Semitism, and to this day it is still
30 referenced as valid documentation by anti-Semites.

expose afsløre
fraud fupnummer

Questions arising from the murder of President John F. Kennedy, the moon landing, the attack of 9/11 have all been addressed and debunked. A lot of so-called "unanswered questions" have actually been answered, and a lot
35 of theories have been debunked but evidently not in a satisfying way for

evidently åbenbart

THE WORD "TRUTHER"

The term "truther" may refer to conspiracy theorists in general, but it is often used to describe people who do not believe in the official story about what happened during the attacks of 9/11 in 2001. Confusingly, the word is often used as a derogatory term, while others will refer to themselves as "truthers" with pride.

A moonshot.
Here with a flag in the background (NASA Image Library).

some conspiracy theorists. The point is that it seems to be easier to start a conspiracy theory than it is to disprove it. And if you insist on debunking the theory, you might only make people more suspicious of you.

"I'm something of a scientist myself"
5 It is good to have self-confidence, but sometimes that confidence is unearned. Knowing a few facts about the world or a certain phenomenon might give you a boost of confidence because you are able to engage in discussions and dismantle the arguments of people who have done no research. But knowing something does not mean that you know
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